



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,581	04/12/2004	Robert Burgmeier	S63.2-10865-US01	2645

490 7590 06/17/2005

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A.  
6109 BLUE CIRCLE DRIVE  
SUITE 2000  
MINNETONKA, MN 55343-9185

EXAMINER
----------

TRAN, THAO T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1711

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/822,581

Applicant(s)

BURGMEIER ET AL.

Examiner

Thao T. Tran

Art Unit

1711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/2/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-13 and 30, drawn to an article, classified in class 428, subclass 423.1.
  - II. Claims 14-29, drawn to a method of making an article, classified in class 264, subclass 3.3.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions II and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case, the product as claimed can be made by a different process, such as a coating process to form the laminate article.
3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Art Unit: 1711

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Walter Steinkraus on April 22, 2005 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-13 and 30. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 14-29 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 1711

Claim 1 is indefinite because it is unclear to the examiner if Applicants are trying to indicate that the inner and outer layers are the first and second layers respectively. If so, please state so.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the inner and outer layers" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Note: the examiner is interpreting that the inner and outer layers are the first and second layers that are formed from the first and second polymer materials respectively.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (US Pat. 5,195,969) or Samuelson et al. (US Pat. 6,464,683).

Wang teaches a laminate in a medical balloon or a catheter, the laminate comprising an innermost layer of polyethylene, an outermost layer of Nylon (polyamide), and a layer of Plexar sandwiched in between. Plexar is an anhydride-modified polyolefin. (See Figs 3-4; col. 4, ln. 14-15, 46-49).

Samuelson teaches a laminate in a medical tubing, the laminate comprising an outer layer 16, a core layer 12, and an intermediate tie layer 14 interposed between the outer layer and the core layer (see abstract; Fig. 1). The outer layer comprises a polyester or polyamide; the core

Art Unit: 1711

layer comprises a polyethylene; and the intermediate tie layer comprises a polymeric material comprising functionality capable of adhering outer layer 16 to core layer 12. (See col. 6, ln. 5-6, 41-45, 57-59). The polymer of the intermediate tie layer comprises modified olefinic polymer having an anhydric moiety or maleic acid (see col. 7, ln. 12-51).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang or Samuelson in view of Shimura et al. (US Pat. 5,441,488).

Wang teaches a laminate in a medical balloon or a catheter, the laminate comprising an innermost layer of polyethylene, an outermost layer of Nylon (polyamide), and a layer of Plexar sandwiched in between. Plexar is an anhydride-modified polyolefin. (See Figs 3-4; col. 4, ln. 14-15, 46-49).

Samuelson teaches a laminate in a medical tubing, the laminate comprising an outer layer 16, a core layer 12, and an intermediate tie layer 14 interposed between the outer layer and the core layer (see abstract; Fig. 1). The outer layer comprises a polyester or polyamide; the core layer comprises a polyethylene; and the intermediate tie layer comprises a polymeric material comprising functionality capable of adhering outer layer 16 to core layer 12. (See col. 6, ln. 5-6,

Art Unit: 1711

41-45, 57-59). The polymer of the intermediate tie layer comprises modified olefinic polymer having an anhydric moiety or maleic acid (see col. 7, ln. 12-51).

However, neither Wand nor Samuelson teaches the amount of the modifying compound of the polyolefin in the intermediate layer.

Shimura teaches a modified polyolefin as an adhesive in a laminate, the modified polyolefin comprising maleic anhydride is deposited on polyolefin or polyamide (see col. 4, ln. 51-56; col. 5, ln. 1-7). The content of acid anhydride is 0.5-50% (see col. 5, ln. 9-10). The composition further comprises a catalyst, such as tertiary amine, to promote the reaction of the acid anhydride (see col. 5, ln. 40-43).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have employed the modified polyolefin with the acid anhydride content and the catalyst, as taught by Shimura, in the tie layer of Wang or Samuelson, for the purpose of enhancing adhesion between the tie layer and the outer and inner layer. This is because Shimura teaches that the use of such modified polyolefin and catalyst would have improved bonding and crosslinking between the modified polyolefin and polyamide or polyester.

#### ***Contact Information***

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thao T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-1080. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m..

Art Unit: 1711

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

tt  
June 14, 2005

*Thao Tran*

**THAO T. TRAN  
PATENT EXAMINER**